

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:-

1. A method of managing defects on an optical disk used for recording data, comprising the steps of  
determining a criteria for detecting said defects according to the type of data for which defects are to be detected; and  
detecting said defects using said criteria when data is recorded on or reproduced from said disk.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of detecting said defects are performed with regard to data recorded on the disk.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said step of detecting said defects is performed when the data is reproduced for the purpose of verification of data having been recorded.
4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of using non-defective areas of the optical disk in place of defective areas of the optical disk.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining a criteria includes:  
providing a plurality of criteria; and  
selecting one of said plurality of criteria according to the type of data for which defects are to be detected.
6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of criteria include at least a first criteria, and a second criteria, said second criteria being less strict than said first criteria, said step of selecting comprises selecting said first criteria when the data for which defects are to

be detected is one for which time restriction or reproduction with regard to data recording is less strict, and selecting said second criteria when the data for which defects are to be detected is one for which time restriction with regard to data recording or reproduction is more strict.

7. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of sending control information for specifying said criteria, from means for processing data to be recorded, to means for recording said data.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein data is recorded in units of recording, said step of sending control information sends the control information for each each unit of recording.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein said control information specifying the criteria is for selecting one of a plurality of criteria.

10. The method according to claim 2, wherein data is recorded in units of recording, and said method further comprises the step of recording control information representing the criteria for each unit of recording, on the optical disk, in association with said each unit of recording.

11. A disk device for accessing data on an optical disk, comprising:

means for determining a criteria for detecting said defects according to the type of data for which defects are to be recorded; and

means for detecting said defects using said criteria

when data is recorded on or reproduced from said disk.

12. The device according to claim 11, wherein said detecting means detects said defects with regard to data recorded on the disk.

13. The device according to claim 11, further comprising means for managing defects on the optical disk by using non-defective areas of the optical disk in place of defective areas.

14. The device according to claim 11, wherein said determining means comprises:

means for storing a plurality of criteria; and

means for selecting one of said plurality of criteria according to the type of data for which defects are to be detected.

15. The device according to claim 14, wherein said plurality of criteria include at least a first criteria, and a second criteria, said second criteria being less strict than said first criteria, said selecting means selects said first criteria when the data for which defects are to be detected is one for which time restriction with regard to data recording or reproduction is less strict, and selects said second criteria when the data for which defects are to be recorded is one for which time restriction with regard to data recording or reproduction is more strict.

16. The device according to claim 12, said determining means determines the criteria according a control signal supplied from outside of the device.

17. The device according to claim 12, further comprising

means for recording data, in units of recording, on the disk,

wherein

said determining means determines the criteria for each of said units of recording, and

said recording means also records criteria control information controlling the criteria for each unit of recording, in association with said each unit of recording.

18. An optical disk for recording data, comprising an area storing criteria control information specifying criteria to be used for detecting defects for data recorded on or reproduced from the disk.

19. The optical disk of claim 18, wherein said data is recorded in units of recording, and said criteria control information indicating the criteria to be used for detecting detect with regard to said each unit of recording is recorded in association with said each unit of recording.

20. The optical disk of claim 18, wherein said information selects said criteria from a plurality of predetermined criteria.

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